

CONFIDENTIAL

19 May 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Jack Watson, 16 May 1980

1. At 1315 hours I received a call from Jack Watson. He wanted to know urgently our best estimate of how many boats are in the Port of Mariel, Cuba; how many people those boats could carry back to the United States; and how many people we think are waiting in Mariel. []

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2. I tasked the Cuban analytic center-- [] to get this information. []

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3. I phoned Jack back and told him that there were 1,072 boats in Mariel [] that we estimated the boats on the average would carry 50 people or about (5,500) total; that we had no real information on the number of people waiting in Mariel, but that we believed Castro intended to send away as many as 250,000 and that there were that many willing to go. []

- 55,000

4. Jack seemed disappointed that we didn't know how many people were actually in Mariel waiting. []

5. There is a possibility that Watson intends to use this in what ultimately will be a law enforcement activity. At the same time it is genuine foreign intelligence about what is going on in Cuba, and I therefore considered it a reasonable request for us to fulfill. []

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R. Gates for
STANFIELD TURNER
Director

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